Development of tourist spots in southern States

246 DR. MAM. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of foreign and domestic tourists arrived in the Southern States during the last three years;

(b) the details of proposals relating to tourism are pending with the Central Government for clearance or financial assistance, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Central Government to develop tourist spots in Southern States?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) The development and promotion of tourism is primarily undertaken by the Slate Governments/UTAdministrations themselves. However, the Ministry of Tourism provides funds on the basis of project proposals prioritized for grant of Central financial assistance every year to them for the following schemes:

(i) Tourist Circuits

(ii) Product Infrastructure & Destination Development

(iii) Large Revenue Generating Projects

Project proposals received for prioritised circuits/destinations that are, complete in all respect, are appraised as per guidelines on the basis of inter-se-priority and funds sanctioned, subject to availability under the respective head.

The information in regard to number of foreign and domestic tourists who arrived in the Southern States during the last three years is given in Statement-I (See below). A list of projects sanctioned during the 10th Five Year Plan for integrated development of tourism in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka and Pondicherry is given in Statement-I I.

Statement-I

Number of foreign and domestic tourists who arrived in Southern States during the last three years

Name of the State/UT	arrivals in 2003	Arrivals in 2003	Arrivals in 2004	Arrivals in 2004	Arrivals in 2005	Arrivals in 2005
	Domestic	Foreign	Domestic	Foreign	Domestic	Foreign
Andhra Pradesh	741,38.729	4,79,318	894,40,272	5,01,019	935,29,554	5,60.024
Karnataka	111,75,292	2,49,908	271,94,178	5,30,225	304,70,316	5,45,225
Kerala	58,71,228	2,94,621	59,72,182	3,45,546	59,46,423	3.46.499
Tamil Nadu	402,13,060	9,01,504	422,79,838	10,58,012	432,13,128	11,79,316
Pondicherry	5,00,111	25,559	5,58,445	32,053	5,74,011	31.009

Statement-II

List of projects sanctioned for the Southern States/UT Administrations during the 10th Five Year Plan (Till December, 2006)

(Rs. in lakhs)

SI. No.	Name of the State	Amount of Central Financial Assistance sanctioned
1.	Andhra Pradesh	7,938.27
2.	Karnataka	8,449.99
3.	Kerala	13,373.32
4.	Pondicherry	1,185.16
5.	Tamil Nadu	10,345.34

Conservation of water resources

247. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to pump an estimated Rs. 5,000 crore in 31 farmer suicide-prone districts for managing water security in